

## STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1952.

**GENERAL.** Particulars for the year ended March 1952, possibly subject to slight revision, are shown in the following paragraphs with those for 1951 in parentheses. It will be seen that sheep flocks have increased by 1,303,575 while cattle herds have increased by 4,902 (a grazing equivalent of about 35,000 sheep). More sheep have been imported from other States and less exported, there has been a greater natural increase and decreased numbers have been slaughtered. Since 1946-47 the number of sheep has increased from 7,958,618 to 11,470,088 and cattle from 423,980 to 437,468. These facts, together with increased acreages of barley for grain from 502,005 to 831,893 and oats from 252,325 to 387,361, are in contrast to the decreased acreage for wheat from 2,518,948 to 1,612,987.

**SHEEP.** 11,470,088 (10,166,513) an increase of 1,303,575 on the previous year and of 4,683,550 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946, and 1,099,523 more than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. 3,037,154 (2,513,874) wethers; 147,651 (133,254) rams, 2,354,729 (2,164,477) lambs, 5,266,224 (4,774,388) breeding and 664,330 (580,520) other ewes were recorded.

**LAMBING 1951.** 4,543,285 (4,329,140) ewes were mated and 3,202,656 (3,185,591) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 70.49 (73.59). The record number of lambs marked was 3,322,810 in 1943 and the record percentage was 78.68 in 1917.

**LAMBING 1952.** 5,146,118 (4,568,565) ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1952 (1951), 4,061,633 (3,547,963) to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,084,485 (1,020,602) to rams of other breeds.

**WOOL CLIP.** 11,814,404 (10,735,760) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings etc. being 114,161,853 (103,073,716) lbs. The average fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 9.66 (9.60) lbs. and for sheep only 11.39 (11.29) lbs. The total wool production would include approximately another 11,000,000 (11,064,309) lbs. for wool fellmongered and on skins for export, making a total wool production of 125,161,853 (114,138,025) lbs. The previous record wool production was 115,464,000 lbs. in 1943-44. The wool production is valued at approximately £33,650,000 (£61,425,280) compared with a pre-war average of £4,000,000. The average price for greasy wool was 64.53d. (129.16d) compared with the pre-war average of approximately 12d. and the earlier extremes of 22.97d. in 1924-25 and 6.82d. in 1930-31.

**CATTLE.** All kinds 437,468 (432,566) increase 4,902. The record number was 464,141 in 1950. Dairying cows 176,455 (183,839) were classified as follows - in milk 103,658 (105,765) dry 48,534 (54,439) and springing heifers 24,263 (23,635). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 15,903 (18,706) dairy calves 36,718 (33,483) dairy bulls 7,499 (7,597) beef cows and heifers 96,561 (93,520) beef calves 41,795 (39,276) beef bulls 4,204 (3,640) and other beef cattle 58,333 (52,505). Total dairying cattle 236,575 (243,625) beef cattle 200,893 (188,941). Increases are noted for both dairy and beef calves.

**DAIRY PRODUCTION.** Provisional figures for the year ended June, 1952 are as follows: Butter 18,200,000 (17,402,326) lbs., cheese 23,800,000 (20,006,709) lbs. and Bacon and Ham 6,450,000 (6,785,893) lbs. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 88,000,000 (83,550,000) gallons compared with the record of 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been over 500 gallons.

**HORSES.** 63,285 (71,215) of which foals were 3,029 (3,054) draught 28,344 (34,954) and other 31,912 (33,207). The number of horses is only about 32% of the number (200,870) in 1936 and is the lowest number since 1864. The maximum number was 283,641 in 1913.

FIGS. 64,903 (67,517) of which there were 1,873 (1,882) boars, 9,832 (10,036) breeding sows, all other 53,198 (55,599). The number of pigs is the lowest since 1928. The maximum number was 190,068 in 1940.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 3,102,666 (3,005,668) sheep, 149,194 (148,760) cattle and 18,737 (21,024) horses while inside there were 8,367,422 (7,159,430) sheep, 288,274 (284,041) cattle and 44,548 (50,298) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line. The percentages outside for 1952 were . sheep 27.05 (29.57) cattle 34.10 (34.37) horses 29.61 (29.48).

SLAUGHTERINGS. 1951 (1950) were sheep 919,026 (1,118,147), lambs, 627,482 (903,584), cattle and calves 215,665 (217,688) and pigs 113,601 (110,933). For the first six months of 1952 (1951) there were sheep 560,000 (525,000), lambs 300,000 (240,000), cattle 99,000 (112,000) and pigs 51,000 (56,000).

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 493,306 (492,113), cattle 18,020 (11,119) horses 2,656 (3,255) and pigs 3,752 (3,797).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31st 1952 COMPARED WITH MARCH 31st 1951.

DIVISION	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES	PIGS
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1952
Central	2,509,042	2,162,626	136,611	137,843	19,613	31,685
Lower North	1,845,556	1,602,241	29,211	29,431	8,143	13,797
Upper North	1,071,209	1,025,784	16,609	16,945	4,894	2,463
South Eastern	2,168,426	1,843,643	100,121	92,456	6,977	3,192
Western	1,861,514	1,648,966	13,375	13,775	9,182	6,158
Murray Mallee	1,077,484	940,302	21,817	23,666	6,243	7,608
Total Counties	10,533,231	9,223,562	317,744	314,116	55,052	64,903
Outside Counties	936,857	942,951	119,724	118,450	8,233	-
Total State	11,470,088	10,166,513	437,468	432,566	63,285	64,903
Increase	1,303,575	686,657	4,902	-31,575	-7,930	-2,614

WOOL CLIP

DIVISION	WOOL			AVER. WEIGHT PER FLEECE		
	1951/52 lbs.	1950/51 lbs.	Increase lbs.	1952 lbs.	1951 lbs.	Increase lbs.
Central	24,366,561	20,827,679	3,538,882	9.45	9.20	0.25
Lower North	18,995,157	17,615,743	1,379,414	10.21	10.22	-0.01
Upper North	11,672,136	11,987,881	- 315,745	10.34	10.59	-0.25
South Eastern	20,717,323	16,712,173	4,005,150	9.26	8.27	0.99
Western	17,805,390	15,859,276	1,946,114	9.22	9.25	-0.03
Murray Mallee	10,096,336	9,714,908	381,428	9.43	9.75	-0.32
Total Counties	103,652,903	92,717,660	10,935,243	9.56	9.40	0.16
Outside Counties	10,508,951	10,356,056	152,895	10.81	11.72	-0.91
Total State	114,161,853	103,073,716	11,088,137	9.66	9.60	0.06

Statistical Office,  
ADELAIDE.  
20th August, 1952.

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GOVERNMENT STATIST.